

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/784,768

Examiner

Hung T. Vy

Applicant(s)

IMAICHI ET AL.

Art Unit

2163

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 01/08/2007.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-6.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____


DON WONG
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100

1. This is a response to Applicant's response filed on 1/08/2007. In virtue of this amendment, claims 1-9 remain pending in this application which adding the news claims 7-9. Claims 1-6 are allowed.

Examiner's Amendment

2. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and /or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.3.12. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

3. The following claim has been amended upon agreement by applicant during a telephone conversation with Stanley P. Fisher and Jennifer Teng on 3/12/2007.

Cancel claims 7-9

The following is the claim 1's amendment:

1. (Currently Amended) A document search system for the retrieval of documents related to a search key, comprising:

a database in which terms, corresponding meanings, relevance between the meanings, and relevance between the terms with respect to each corresponding meaning are stored;

a search key input unit for entering by a user a first term as a search key;

a meaning-relation network presenting unit by which a plurality of different meanings of said search key and a second term related to each of said meanings of said search key are extracted from the database and presented in a form of a network;

a meaning selecting means for selecting by the user at least one meaning of the first term in the network presented by the meaning-relation network presenting unit;

a search unit conducting a document search using said search key;

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a meaning determination unit for determining a meaning of the search key used in a searched document by the search unit, by referring to the database; and

a filtering unit selecting a document from a set of searched documents as determined by the meaning determination unit in which said search key is used with said at least one meaning selected by the meaning selecting means,

wherein the first term and each of said different meanings are paired and displayed side by side as one first node in the network,

said second term is displayed as a second node linked to said first node via a line in the network, and

said second term and a meaning of the second term are paired and displayed side by side as said second node in the network.

Reasons for Allowance

4. Claims 1-6 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reason for allowance:

With respect to claims 1-6, none of the references of record teaches or suggests the claimed the claimed a document search system for the retrieval of documents related to a search key, comprising, along with all the other claimed feature, a database in which term; a search key; a meaning-relation network presenting unit by which a plurality of different meanings of said search key and **a second term related** to each of meaning of said search key are extracted from the database and presented in a form of a network; a meaning selecting means; a meaning determination unit; a filtering unit selecting a document from a set of searched documents as determined by the meaning determination unit in which said search key is used with said at least one meaning selected by the meaning selecting means, wherein the first term and each of said

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different meanings **are paired and displayed side by side as one first node** in the network, said **second term is displayed as a second node linked to said first node** via a line in the network, and said second term and a meaning of the **second term are paired and displayed side by side as said second node** in the network.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance".

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Hung T. Vy whose telephone number is 571-2721954. The examiner can normally be reached on 8.30am - 5.30 pm.

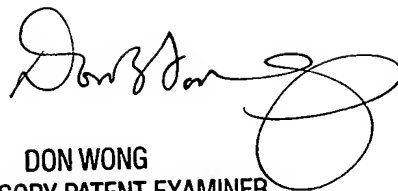
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Don Wong can be reached on 571 272 1834. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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March 13, 2007

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Don Wong", with a large, stylized loop at the end.

DON WONG
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100